

United States compete in the global economy. I strongly encourage these students, and the rest of my constituents, to continue exploring and developing their talents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the 2016 Solve For Tomorrow champions from Loudoun Valley High School for their incredible achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING MS. PAM CHATMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Pam Chatman.

For as long as Pam Chatman can remember, she's been coming in first. She was the first of 3 children born to parents in the heart of the poverty-stricken Mississippi Delta. She was the first of her siblings to graduate from college. She was the first African American Woman to steer a course through the chaos of a broadcast news career to achieve the position of News Director at WABG.

But little did Pam know in 2006, when she became News Director, she was achieving yet another first: Mississippi's first-ever female African-American News Director, an honor she wears proudly.

Recently the Tru TV network chronicled Pam's seemingly unlikely journey from poverty to power, which is its hit new reality series "Breaking Greenville". Pam's starring role in that show underscores her passion, not just for her profession, but for the people who work for her as anchors, reporters and producers. Kids right out of college, who are hungry to learn the ropes of an often cut-throat career, find comfort in Pam's approach to leadership and management.

Pam was raised up in Shaw, Mississippi in a small rural community outside of the city limits called "Choctaw" a dirt-poor town of about less than 2-thousand people that sits in the heart of Bolivar County. Her grandmother, Marie Fly, raised her, and while poverty pulled at every corner of their lives, Pam relishes her adolescent years, coming of age in the Deep South. From its rich farming heritage, to its lakes and rivers teeming with catfish, to its red-clay hillsides that give a hint of color to an otherwise difficult existence, the Mississippi Delta to this day holds Pam's heart.

Pam graduated from Shaw high school in 1988 and enrolled in Rust College, one of Mississippi's oldest and most prestigious colleges for African-Americans.

Pam pledged to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, the first inter-collegiate Greek-letter sorority established for Black colleges. Pam graduated from Rust College in 1994 with a degree in Broadcasting Mass Communication, and returned to the Delta, degree in hand, with her heart set on making a difference close to home. She landed her first television job at Greenville's WXVT where she worked as a Production Assistant and then later moved to the Newsroom. She eventually went to work for WXVT's competitor, WABG, where she worked her way up from Assignment Manager to ultimately News Director, a position she's held for 10 years.

Her notoriety as Mississippi's first female African-American News Director also convinced the state legislators to dedicate a portion of Highway 61 in her honor and to proclaim January 18th as Pam Chatman Day.

In addition to leading a winning news team, Pam is a tireless community volunteer and advocate for teens and young women. She's also a motivational speaker, teaching women of all ages to accept and appreciate their uniqueness within the human race. She especially has a big heart for women who have come from small rural communities and are victims of abuse and drugs.

Yes, Pam Chatman is indeed a woman of firsts: the first to volunteer when there's a need; the first to offer comfort when someone is hurting; a first-class example of what a little faith and a lot of love can accomplish.

Pam also has a Mentoring, Consulting and Training Organization; the organization believes that every person you meet is a Diamond in the Rough. The organization provides workshops to educate and empower teens to get an education; strive for success; and to let no one define their dreams or destiny. The organization provides food and clothing to needy families. Once a month Pam herself does random acts of kindness where she pays for people's groceries or their utility bill. Yes, she is a servant determined to impact everyone she meets in life with a smile or an act of kindness. The organization has a doll called the PChat Doll that has a curriculum that comes along with it to teach young girls to love the skin they're in as well to deter bullying. The focus of the curriculum is Character Education, Literacy and Parental Involvement.

Pam does consultant work for the Mississippi Department of Education Federal 21-Century Program's after school projects. In addition, Pam is also an entrepreneur. Pam has a cosmetics and spa line to enhance women of color and beauty called "Boss Lady PChatman" which was developed to assist in healing the totality of a woman from her inner beauty to her outer beauty.

Pam loves to help women break the chain of hurt and pain. So, she wrote a monologue gospel play entitled "Lord Show Me How to Heal My Scars". The play allows women from all walks of life to share their story through testimonials and songs.

Pam is the daughter of Louise Henry and the late Joseph Henry and has three siblings: Joseph, Jr., III; Evelyn and special niece Karris Henry, which she is assisting her family in raising.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing News Director, Actor, Motivational Speaker, Author, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist who has been instrumental in magnifying strides of America's black history.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DOWNRIVER CAREER TECHNICAL CONSORTIUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Downriver Career Technical

Consortium on their 50th Anniversary. As a Member of Congress, it is an honor and privilege to recognize their commitment to providing first class career development and vocational training to students from across our community.

In 1965, the school districts of Flat Rock, Gibraltar, and Grosse Ile launched eight jointly funded and supported vocational education programs, beginning the efforts of working and coordinating together these types of services between school entities, to better leverage and utilize resources among them. In the next few years, more school districts joined the effort including: Huron Schools, Airport Schools, Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools, Riverview Schools, Trenton Schools, Allen Park Schools and Southgate Schools. In 1978, the then current coalition of schools was approved as the Downriver Area Vocational Cooperative and was renamed the Downriver Career Technical Consortium (DCTC) in 1991. This type of co-operation and coordination is a hallmark of the success our Downriver communities, where leaders from across municipal, non-profit, business and educational institutions, have had in understanding the importance of working together to support and build our regional economy.

Today, the DCTC provides vocational programming in over 24 different career pathways including building and construction trades, accounting and finance, aviation, automotive services, communications, hospitality, dental occupations, and computer aided design, just to name a few. Not only is it important for our economy, but this type of vocational training is instrumental to the futures of our students who pursue these pathways. In an ever changing global economic environment, programs such as the DCTC allow our students and future workforce to be trained for the jobs of the 21st century and realize the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the DCTC on their 50th Anniversary and to wish them many more years of successful education and collaboration.

TRIBUTE TO KENT MUYSKENS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kent Muyskens for being named Northwest Iowa STEM Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

Kent lives in Yale, Iowa and teaches chemistry at Carroll High School. He was selected because of nominations from colleagues that praised him for his hard work and innovation in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. He worked with the community, engaged students in the process and used innovative instructional methods. Kent was also praised for his work with Project Lead the Way, taking students to a NASA space shuttle competition and writing new curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, Kent is an Iowan who has made his community and school district very proud. He has worked hard and dedicated himself to making STEM education a priority. It is with great honor that I recognize him